

# THE SABRES' BLADE

December 17, 1997

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXV

## South receives Governor's Entrepreneurial Schools Award

By Jim Craig  
Special to *The Sabres' Blade*

At a banquet in Raleigh on November 21, South principal Dr. Jim Knox received a plaque from Governor Jim Hunt, who recognized the school as one of ten Entrepreneurial Schools in North Carolina in 1997. In 1993, the governor initiated the Entrepreneurial Schools Awards through his Teacher Advisory Committee in order to find and recognize schools that "through responsible risk taking, seek cutting-edge solutions to education challenges. They turn innovative ideas into programs that increase student achievement and improve the quality of life for the children of our state."

South nominated itself for the award in the fall of 1996 based on three programs which it felt define an entrepreneurial school: the Ninth Grade Academy, Flexography in the High Schools, and the offering of college level courses on campus as

a part of the regular school day. A member of the Teacher Advisory Committee visited South in April, and met with faculty, parents, and students involved with the three programs. South was notified in August of its selection as one of ten out of eighty-eight schools and/or school systems which had applied for the award.

Each program has involved its own elements of risk in order to benefit students at South. The Ninth Grade Academy requires that other faculty members assume a higher student load in order that the ninth grade English teachers are able to meet with their students every day. As a national pilot site, the Flexography program involves shared risks by the school and industry. South was largely responsible for coordinating curriculum development for an entirely new program, industry invested well over \$100,000, and though both were aware that results would be vis-

ible to a national audience, they decided to risk public failure in the interest of increased opportunities for students. The risks involved with the College Experience Program on campus are shared with Central Piedmont Community College and mostly involve the problems inherent with offering a program which has never before been attempted.

Elements of success for each program are evident and continue to be assessed. Much gratitude is due several groups, all of whom contributed to South's recognition as a Governor's Entrepreneurial School: the faculty of South for its involvement in the Academy, the local and national Flexography industry for initiating the high school program and its considerable consistent commitment to improvement, and the faculty members at Central Piedmont Community College for their willingness to share the risks of an innovative program.



Staff Photographer

John van Brederode and Crystal Muse share the spotlight.

## Executive Council members inducted into Hall of Fame

By Karen Whichard

John van Brederode and Crystal Muse were recently inducted into the North Carolina Association of Student Councils (NCASC) Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame recognition program is designed to honor outstanding student leadership at the high school level. Only twenty-five students across the state are inducted each year.

Students must be nominated by their local student council adviser.

"We are lucky to have the opportunity to serve our school and community," John said. "Speaking for myself, Crystal, and the council, I'd like to say that we are honored to be receiving this award."

Mr. Howard was recognized as Director of NCASC Western District.

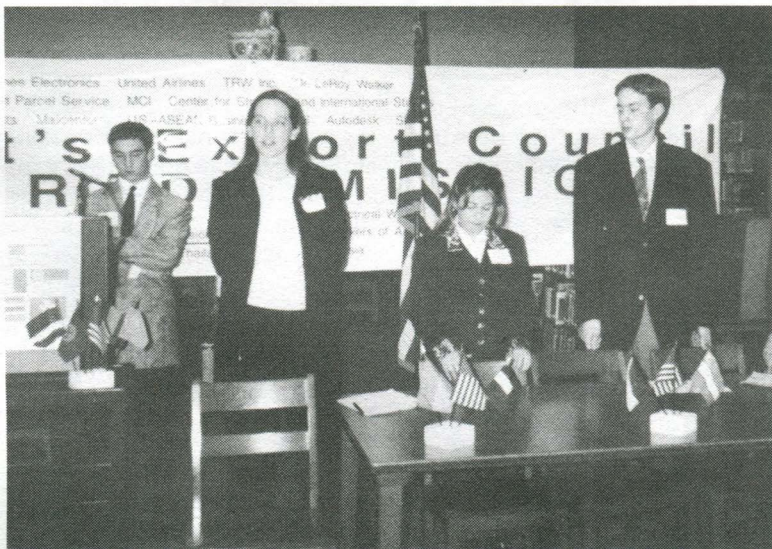
## South marketing students host international President's Export Council Virtual Trade Mission

By Elizabeth Berry

On December 1-3, 1997, South Mecklenburg's Strategic Marketing class hosted the President's Export Council (PEC), Virtual Trade Mission in the media center.

The private sector leadership of the President's Export Council created the Virtual Trade Mission Program for middle school, high school, and college students as a part of a new communications strategy. The purpose of the program is to increase public awareness of the importance of America's export economy and the need for a bipartisan public-private strategy to meet the challenges of the global marketplace.

The Virtual Trade Mission is a program developed to introduce students to the Big Emerging Markets which include South Korea, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Poland, Turkey, and the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) which includes the countries of Indonesia, Malay-



Mary Llewellyn leads an export challenge discussion.

sia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, and Vietnam. These economies are opportunities for America's businesses and entrepreneurs to develop export sales and thereby to support America's economic growth.

The program consisted of five key components: an introduction to the overall theme, a multimedia presentation which con-

tained an insight to how international trade affects well known businesses, including sponsor companies General Electric, MCI, UPS, and Texas Instruments. Competitive Chalk Talk was a speech given by Dr. Lisa Rohde, silver medalist on the U.S. Rowing Team. Local companies discussed the challenges involved in international trade.

Students were given an export challenge requiring that they develop a marketing plan for an American product or service which may result in successful trade with one of the Big Emerging Market countries.

The skills development section included a "Making Markets" project. Students were given a simulation of a "real world" business problem and applied the Virtual Trade Mission information and skills in planning a ten minute business presentation to business leaders, government representatives, school board members, and fellow classmates.

The Export Challenges included planning a concert tour for Boyz II Men in Singapore, Hong Kong, and South Korea, developing a marketing plan for selling U.S. Sport Utility Vehicles in South Africa, marketing non-stop service for United Airlines between Chicago and Hong Kong, and working with armored vehicle manufacturer O'Gara Hess to arrange export opportunities with Mexico.

## Two named Park Scholarship nominees

By Leah Reed

The two students chosen to represent South in the Roy H. Park Scholarship competition are Crystal Muse and Matthew Strother.

The Park Scholarship is a full scholarship to N.C. State University, and is awarded based on both merit and leadership potential. It is named in honor of Roy H. Park, a graduate of State's class of 1931, and was established at N.C. State in 1996.

Muse, the Executive Council vice-president, is also president of Peaceful Sabres and ICC. She is a lettergirl and one of the founding members and president of the Sisters with Vision. Strother is the trombone section leader in the marching band. He is also a member of the German Club, and has just completed the Krefeld exchange program. Both Crystal and Matthew are members of Beta Club and National Honor Society.

Cheating affects all students...

Page 2

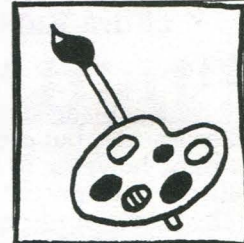


Sabres Reaching Out...

Pages 4-5

Teacher Spotlight: Terry Baucom

Page 6







## Mystery on the rocks

By Karen Whichard

The mystery has gone on long enough. After countless years of tradition, displaying Sabre Pride, birthdays, and other important events, two of our graffiti rocks are missing. The top Sabres' Blade detectives have been investigating, and have offered the following scenarios which may or may not lead to closure in this investigation.

### Scenario 1: The Providence Heist

An unknown number of Providence High School pranksters, in a sophomoric effort to win cool points, infiltrated the South campus late one evening. The perpetrators of the crime were more than likely large football players, since our rocks are so heavy with tradition. These delinquents proceeded to place the rocks in the bed of a large truck, which was reportedly spotted depositing them in front of Providence.

### Scenario 2: The Quail Hollow Conspiracy

One evening, after a school function at Quail Hollow Junior High, a contingent of irate adolescents stormed over and removed the smaller rocks. It has not yet been determined why they committed the crime, or

whether the rocks were placed in a moving vehicle or merely rolled down Park Road. All we can disclose at this time is that the number of rocks in front of Quail is exponentially growing.

### Scenario 3: Tractor Triumph

South Meck, which is growing in national prominence, has gained the attention of several underground terrorist organizations. These groups, convinced that the Sabres were storing key national security information in the rocks, plotted to remove them. Led on the inside by an unknown informant, who provided the use of the famed John Deere golf cart, the terrorist group was able to pull off the heist. The terrorists reportedly involved were, among others, Lee Harvey Oswald, John Wilkes Booth, Elvis, and the Marshmallow Man. We would tell you everything we know, but then we would have to kill you.

Our investigators are still working on the case, and if we find any more information we will relay it to you. Meanwhile, try to cope with your sorrow the best you can. The Sabres' Blade centerspread features several numbers which can help you overcome personal problems; don't be afraid to call.

## Dishonesty hurts all students

By Andrew Buchert

This fall, many colleges and universities are attempting to curb behaviors which they consider excessive, illegal, or immoral. A number of these institutions are forming committees to study ways to eliminate student cheating in their classrooms.

In a scientific sampling taken at Appalachian State University last spring, nearly half the students surveyed admitted that they had copied from a classmate's test. However, cheating is not exclusive to colleges and universities. An alarmingly high number of high school students have admitted to cheating on assignments and tests.

For instance, some students write down the answers to a test, which they have already taken, and pass them on to their friends who will take the test in a later period. Others type up a "mini-cheat sheet," which they can conveniently conceal during the test. The graphing calculators required for higher-level math and science courses have also become cheating tools.

The reasons that students feel the need to cheat are varied, but several motives prevail. One is not being prepared for the test. For some students the pressure to make an A on tests prompts them to cheat, rather than spending more time preparing and studying for the test. An-

other is the challenge of doing something dishonest without being caught. Students brag to their friends about how easy it is to cheat, and encourage them to try it also. Suddenly, the question becomes, "Why 'waste' time studying when I can just as easily cheat?"

Although cheating one's way through tests and assignments may seem like an easy way to make a good grade, it devalues the grades of all students, even the ones who do not cheat. By allowing this blatant dishonesty to continue, we are only hurting ourselves.

The tests and assignments of today are our preparation for future careers and responsibilities. An integral part of education is the development of personal responsibility, integrity, and moral character.

Many high schools and colleges now resort to an honor code, to which students pledge that they have neither given nor received help on a test or assignment. What makes these honor code systems effective is strict enforcement by the students themselves. Violations of the honor code can result in expulsion from the institution.

It is imperative for students who know of dishonesty to report it. Students who cheat on their assignments and tests are insulting their own intelligence, as well as their teacher's, and devaluing the grades of all honest students.

## Binge drinking: A deadly experience for anyone

By Willie Jordan

It's Friday night. You and the guys are celebrating because you won the big football game. You're having a great time, but then one of your pals brings out some beer. While most of the guys are taking it easy, one of them is chugging beerlike crazy. Hours later, when you are leaving, you notice that one of your friends is missing. You search the house, and then you see him, lying on the floor, with a blush face and hardly breathing. You rush to the phone, and call 911, as your friends watch over him. As the ambulance comes and takes him to the hospital, you just wonder, why did it have to happen?

This is the effect that binge drinking can have. What drives a teenager to do something that is very dumb, and in some cases very deadly? For most teens, it is the fun of getting drunk and messed up. The lesser symptoms of alcohol poisoning, which is caused by binge drinking, are vomiting, sleepiness, and passing out. The more severe symptoms are comas, irregular breathing, blush skin tone, and even death! It is usually the drinker's fault, but sometimes the victim dies because of the ignorance of his friends. Usually it is because they are afraid of getting in trouble with the law because they are under age. But some don't know how to detect alcohol poisoning, so that is a factor

as well.

Many factors determine if a student has a chance of becoming a binge drinker. Being a constant user of alcohol greatly increases the chances of binge drinking. In a 1995 poll, sixty-one percent of seventh to twelfth graders in Mecklenburg county were found to use alcohol. In another poll, 1.2 million U.S. twelfth graders were found to be binge drinkers. Other factors, such as participation in school athletics and not participating in religious activities can increase your chances of becoming a binge drinker. High school binge drinkers are three times as likely to become binge drinkers in college.

Closer to home, binge drinking is seen as sick and deadly by most Harding students, not the popular activity that most college students see it as. In a recent Ram\*Page poll, 56 percent of students said they used alcohol, but only 20 percent said they had been binge drinking. In fact, only 22 percent of students said that they thought binge drinking was the cool thing to do. So, when you and your friends are thinking about getting some alcohol, stop, and listen to reason. Think about the consequences for you, your friends, and your family. And ask yourself, is this what I really want to do.

Willie Jordan is the Sports Co-Editor of The Harding Ram Page at Harding University High School.

## Quick Take on Opinions

### Are today's kids too lazy?

Everyday I hear students complaining to their teachers about how much work they are assigned. They ask why they are being made to learn something that they feel they will never need. To these people, I address the following question: What is wrong with learning something just for the sake of knowing it? After all, knowledge is power. The more you know, the more power and influence you will have.

Nevertheless, most young people today are extremely lazy and unwilling to do any more than the bare minimum needed to pass their classes. And these people are planning to go to college? If so, then they are in for a shock when they get there. College is much more strenuous and demanding than high school. Get used to the work, because things are only going to get harder. Scott Shoun

The North Star

North Meck High School

### Mr. Popular versus the nerd: No contest

In our world, kids who think at all are considered by their peers to be thinking too much.

If we cultivate a culture that elevates getting along over getting an education, that stresses looks over thoughts, we shouldn't wonder why our children have trouble when it comes to solving problems, writing a coherent text or mastering the technology that will dominate their lives.

Ever think about the geeks of your past?

After years of social punishment, many of these kids grow up to be ministers, social workers, doctors, nurses, and teachers. They grow up to give of themselves, because in spite of their culture, they continue to love learning and practice commitment.

Geeks help hold our world together. They are teaching our children, ministering to our families, helping those who must struggle to achieve a better life, caring for us when we are sick.

Oversensitive. Perfectionist. Nerdy.

More of us should be more like them.

Barbara Thiede

The Charlotte Observer

### The pros and cons of pep rallies

All in all, the pep rallies are a good idea for the athletes. In the students' eyes it is a waste of valuable time. Most students in AG and AP classes would rather be in class. The student government should take a poll and see which students want to come to the pep rallies. If they get a good number of students that want to come, they should sell tickets for the pep rallies.

Tamara Webb

The Olympic Flame  
Olympic High School

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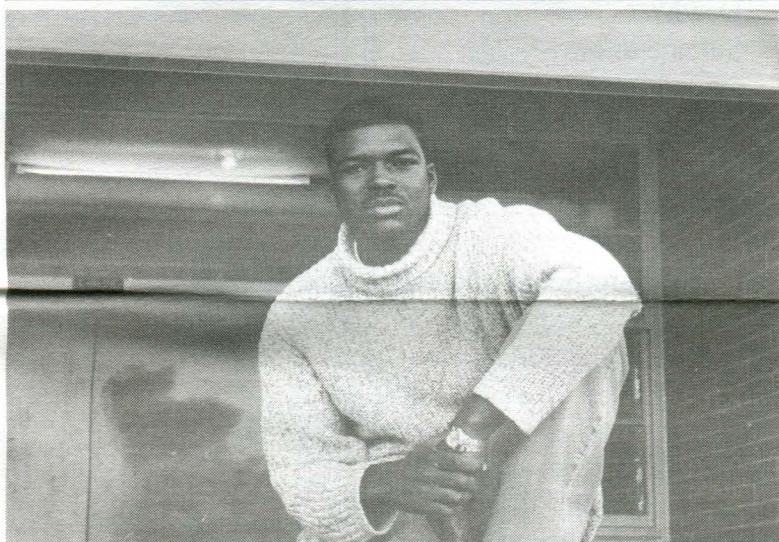


## Faces in the Crowd



Staff Photographer

**Name: Kate Meier**  
**Nickname: Katums**  
**Favotite Food: Potatoes**  
**In C.D. Player: Peter, Paul, and Mary**  
**Favorite Color: Green**  
**Class: Chemistry II AP**



Staff Photographer

**Name: Jason Gardner**  
**Role Model: His father**  
**Basketball Team: Any WNBA team**  
**Ice Cream Flavor: Cookies 'n cream**  
**Pet Peeve: Player haters**  
**Nickname: J Baby**

## Going the distance

By Megan McKnight

Junior Kate Meier is a well rounded student who excels in both academics and athletics. She is one of the top female runners at South and one of the school's most successful art students.

Kate was the captain of the women's cross country team her sophomore year, and continues to hold this position. She was voted the team's MVP as a freshman, and last year was voted the team's most dedicated runner, as well as MVP for track.

"Kate is one of those special people whonotonly works hard to improve herself," Coach Lalas said, "but is always trying to help her teammates shine as bright as her smile."

Kate is also an artist. She is in Art III and has won numerous awards, including first place in

the Festival in the Park. "Kate is one of the best students we have at South," Mr. Baucom said. "She stands to receive an art scholarship if she continues to work at the level she is now."

Kate maintains a 4.5 GPA in honors classes such as

*"Kate is one of those special people who is always trying to help her teammates," said Coach Lalas.*

Chemistry II AP and US History AP.

Her role model is Mike Mauriello. "He sets a good example and works hard at what he does," she said.

Kate adds that her last name, contrary to popular belief, is pronounced like Myer, not Mir.

## Jivin' Jason

By Jennifer Collins

Well known as the best dressed senior, Jason Gardner catches the eye of many of South's most eligible women.

An active member of nine school clubs, such as DECA, NAACP, Young Men's Club, and Peaceful Sabres, Jason keeps very busy. He was awarded proficiency for retail marketing- management level, at the state level competition of DECA last year.

The starting quarterback his junior year and assistant coach his senior year, Jason has been an important part of the football team at South. Gardner also plays basketball and is an assistant coach for the women's program. He hopes to play baseball this spring.

In addition to his numerous scholastic activities, Jason is an

active member of his church, God of Prophecy. He feels his work with the church has made him a better person.

"Not only is he a diligent student," said Mr. Kutner, his English teacher, "he is a gentleman as well."

When he is not at school or at

*"Not only is he a diligent student, he is a gentleman as well," said Mr. Kutner*

church, you may see Jason working behind the counter of Hechts' in Carolina Place Mall. Jason hopes to attend Emory and Henry College next fall. His plan is to one day own his own business. "There is no secret to success. It comes from hard work and learning from your mistakes," he said.

If you could change one thing at South, what would it be?

"I would make the lunch period longer."

**Michael Tong, 12th**

"The faculty-student relationship needs improving."

**Dominique McFadden, 12th**

"Turn on the Coke machines all the time."

**Jordan Bartels, 10th**

"We need a longer lunch."

**Kristi Michue, 12th**

"I think we should have a ten point grading scale."

**Amber McCloskey, 11th**

"I would change 8th period Calculus."

**Pedro Marques, 12th**

"Too many students skip and cut class."

**Shandreâ Penland, 9th**

"All the smoking in the buildings."

**Equannde Krider, 9th**

"We need a longer break between classes."

**Jon Sauzier, 11th**

"I would change the way the Providence students were treated at the beginning of the year."

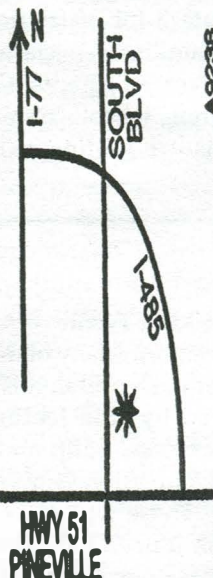
**Shawn Millington, 12th**

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The number of teens with AIDS doubles every fourteen months.

63% of STDs occur in persons less than 25 years of age.

80% infected with an STD do not develop the initial symptoms.

# Sabres Rea



## A Time For Caring

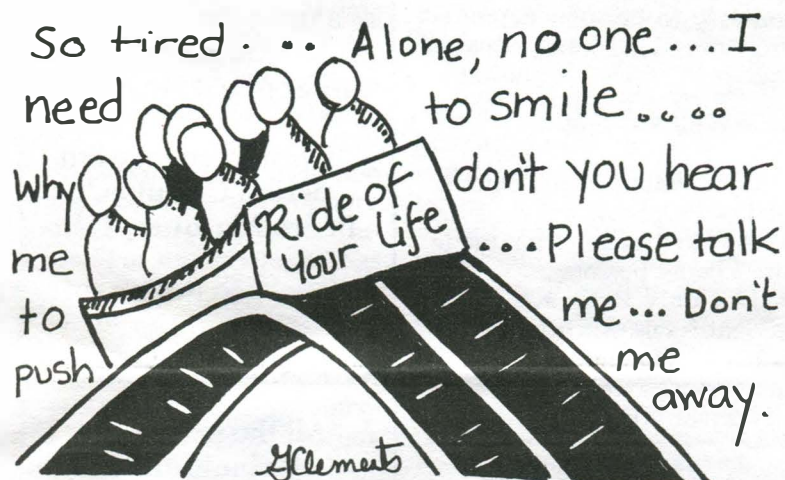
By Karen Whichard

The Christmas season is in full swing, and we are being bombarded with the happy holiday love so many Americans find endearing. It's a season of joy and giving, and it's a time when everyone's in a great mood. Truthfully, however, the Christmas season can be the most depressing time of year for many people.

Christmas, even though it was meant to be joyful, often magnifies the losses many have experienced. It's always painfully obvious when a family member who has passed away

is absent from the festivities. Also, many children from broken homes loathe the holiday because of the arguments concerning which parent gets custody on Christmas Day.

Because of the bleakness the holiday creates within so many people, we have compiled two pages of information on how to seek help for yourself or for those whom you love. Christmas is about giving, and we encourage you to give the gift of yourself and your support for those who are in need of someone to reach out.



## Rollercoaster of Emotions

By Jennifer Collins

Up and down, will the roller coaster ride ever stop? It is estimated that one in 100 people suffer from manic depression. Nearly 75% of those suffering from it remain undiagnosed. It typically appears in young adults between the ages of 20 and 30. Without treatment, about one fifth of those with the illness will commit suicide. Mood swings come upon manic-depressives for no apparent reason.

The individual repeatedly falls into the three stage cycle of the disease. The first stage, hypomania, is when the person is accomplishing so much and feels on top of the world. It is very difficult to be convinced anything is wrong during this stage. Suddenly, the person becomes out of control, disorganized, irritable, and eventually unable to function. Severe depression quickly follows. Poor judgment overtakes the person and causes him to put his reputation, relationships career, and life at stake. To cope with the illness, a majority of

sufferers abuse alcohol or drugs. Sleep deprivation, physical exhaustion, alcohol, and stressful situations can increase the possibility of having an episode. Some of the causes of this disease include genetics, and biochemistry.

Studies have shown that close relatives of people suffering from this disease are ten to twenty times more likely to develop the disease. In many cases, the manic-depressives are people who are under intense pressure to achieve great things that would bring honor to their families. It has also been shown that biochemical imbalances contribute to manic-depressive illness.

The good news is that the disorder is among the most treatable. There are three main drugs commonly used to treat depressed patients; however, none of the drug treatments are a cure. If the patient stops taking the medication, the disease will come back. In addition to medicine, the individual can regain a healthy self-image and repair relationships by seeing a therapist.

Information provided by Amethyst

## A Self-Test for Teens about Depression

Do you express feelings of:

Sadness or "emptiness"?  
Hopelessness, pessimism, or guilt?  
Helplessness or worthlessness?

Do you seem:

Unable to make decisions?  
Unable to concentrate and remember?  
To have lost interest or pleasure in ordinary activities like sports or band or talking on the phone?

Have you noticed that:

You want to be alone most of the time?  
Your behavior changed suddenly so that you are restless or more irritable?  
You've started cutting classes or dropped hobbies and activities?  
You may be drinking heavily or taking drugs?

Do you complain of:

Loss of energy and drive so you seem "slowed down"?  
Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or getting up?  
Appetite problems, or are you losing or gaining weight?  
Headaches, stomach aches, or backaches?  
Chronic aches and pains in joints and muscles?

Have you talked about:

Death?  
Suicide or have you attempted suicide?

If you have circled several of these facts, that person may need help. Negative thinking, inappropriate behavior, or physical changes need to be addressed as quickly as possible. Charter Pines offers no-charge assessments, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To schedule an assessment call 1-800 CHARTER.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call one of these organizations:

Charter Pines  
365-5368

Amethyst  
571-6100

Drug Education Center  
375-0440

Planned Parenthood  
377-0841

Sexually Transmitted Diseases Hotline  
336-6500

Teen Health Connection  
344-8336

Time Out Youth  
537-5050

Charlotte Pregnancy Care  
372-5981

Rape Crisis Hotline  
375-9900

## The Parent Problem

By Gia Clements and Chris O'Connor

Most children would like to believe that they have the perfect 'Hollywood' family. This stereotype consists of a handsome father, a loving mother, and two perfect children all living in a nice warm home. This image still holds true for much of society, but it is becoming more apparent that not everyone lives in this perfect little world. Christmas time can generate a lot of friction for many families, especially ones with divorced parents. Christmas is not often one time when parents are willing to share

the time with their estranged spouse. Luckily, there are divorced parents who can put differences aside and be willing to compromise and work with each other for the child's sake. It is unfortunate that there are some divorced parents who put their children through a tug-of-war battle during this season.

There is also the controversial question that arises as to who loves the children the most. Adults are sometimes slow to learn that a child's love is unconditional; it is not because of

what is bought for them or how much quality time is spent with them because all they want is love. Moms and Dads have always done a good job providing love, either together or separately. Those suffering from the competing parent syndrome should remind parents that it will not change anything in the long run. Be patient with your parents; they are afraid of losing their little girls and little boys. To know how much they mean to their children is the best present any parent could be given.

## Is it just the blues?

By Tanikkia Tyson

Depression. Many of us have heard of it. Depression is characterized by the feelings of worthlessness, guilt, and sadness. Depression is a serious matter. Those who are suffering from it need help before it consumes them.

Someone may be suffering

from this disease if he/she shows signs of excessive eating or not eating enough, shying away from crowds, or talking of suicide.

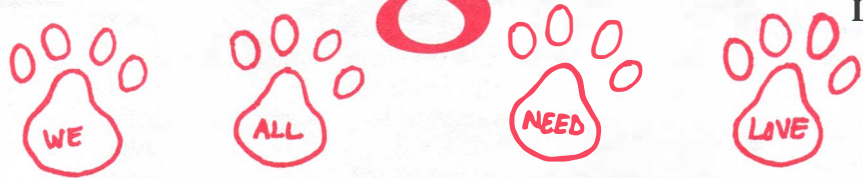
If you feel that friends may be in a situation that causes them to show signs of depression, it would be helpful to

cheer them up, and give them the help they need. If you don't think that you can be of any assistance, talk them into seeing someone who can help them. You could save a life this Christmas just by talking to someone.



# ching Out

Layout by Gia Clements



## Burning Rain

An Original Short Story

By Gia Clements

Swallowed in darkness I weep for help but no one hears my cry. Everywhere I look there are smiling faces; why don't any of them look at me? Am I so gross and imperfect that the warmth I see in their faces when they talk to others must turn to disgust and fear when they look at me. I have tried so long to be loved; instead, I have dug myself into a grave of pity and loneliness.

Alone with my sorrows my heart cries out in pain. It yearns to be free of this torment the world has created for it. I start running. The rain beats down upon my tired body, each drop burning like a scathing remark. I keep running though, through the darkness which has become my life. How I wish the darkness would end.

My legs slow. I am tired of running from my past. I look around and realize I have

come to the cliffs by the sea. Below me the waves crash against the jagged cliffs. I used to come here often with my father until he too chose to leave. After my mother died his new companion became a bottle of liquor. Death came slow to him, just as he wanted it to. Death. It sounds so peaceful, so safe from the hell that has become my life. I turn my attention again to the swirling waters below me. The white waves seem to reach out to me, begging me to join them. I move closer to the edge and slowly peer down to the water. I could do it; I could jump off this cliff and become free of this burden of living. I look up at the stars in the night sky and prepare to take the final step of my life.

Suddenly, a firm hand grabs my shoulder. Startled, I turn around. I can't tell who it is because the darkness shrouds his face. At first I think it is my fa-

ther but the shadows shift and it becomes my little sister. The face changes; it changes into people in my life who do love me. I am not alone anymore. They are all here with me in spirit to keep me safe. I realize how much it means to me to be alive and how much it would hurt these people to see me give up and take the easy way out of my problems. I take one final look at the waves before I step away. They don't seem to call to me anymore; instead, they seem to push me away. Tears stream down my face as I realize I am loved and needed. I turn again to the face but it has faded away into the night.

\* \* \*

No one is alone in this world. Each of us is loved. Let others know how special they are to you before it is too late.

*Most daughters of alcoholic fathers will marry an alcoholic unless treatment is provided.*

*In 90% of all repeated child abuse cases alcohol plays a destructive role.*

*Children of alcoholics are prone to anxiety, attempted and completed suicides, and eating disorders.*

### Signs Of Dating Violence

1. Is **Jealous** and **Possessive**
2. Is very **Bossy** and tries to **Control** you
3. Is **Scary**. You worry about how he or she will **React** to things
4. Is **Violent** and loses temper quickly
5. Pressures you for sex
6. Abuses drugs or alcohol
7. **Blames You** when he or she **Mistreats** you
8. Has a history of bad relationships
9. Believes men should be powerful and women should be submissive
10. Your family and friends worry for your safety

For help with dealing with an Abusive relationship contact **The Shelter For Battered Women** at (704) 332-2513. They are there to help you 24 hours a day.



### Warning Signs of Chemical Abuse

- \***School tardiness, truancy or declining grades**
- \***Loss of motivation, energy, self discipline**
- \***Forgetfulness-short or long term**
- \***Aggressive anger, hostility or irritability**
- \***Sullen, uncaring attitudes and behavior**
- \***Disappearances of money or valuables**
- \***Unusual mood swings**
- \***Changes in friends, elusive about new friends**

## Love enough for two

By Nicole Ewing and Leah Reed

Me, pregnant? No, that could never happen to me. That's what many teenagers think about teen pregnancy. Every year, about 470,000 teenage girls give birth. That's almost forty percent of the female population under twenty years old, which includes homecoming queens, valedictorians, class presidents, every type of person.

The babies born to teenage mothers are more likely to suffer from health problems because of the lack of professional care the mother receives. One out of seven babies is born at a very low birth-weight, causing the risk of mental retardation, immature organs, and sometimes death. The mother is also likely to experience complications during pregnancy such as premature and prolonged labor. Many girls continue to smoke, drink, and take drugs during their pregnancy, not realizing the fatal effects they could have on the unborn child.

Not only can the mother be affected physically, but also emotionally. Many times, she is no longer with the father of the child. Relationships often end after the girl gets unex-

pectedly pregnant. This leaves her to care for herself, without the help of the baby's father. Another terrifying factor that has to be considered is that of rape. Out of all of the teenage pregnancies for girls under fourteen, sixty percent have been as a result of rape. This also makes other problems possible. Sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), HIV, and AIDS, can result from sexual abuse.

Many teenage girls that go through an unplanned pregnancy have to turn to abortion. In 1995, twenty-two percent of all abortions in North Carolina were to teenagers. Nationally, about thirty-two percent of all teenage pregnancies ended in abortion. It is now illegal for girls under the age of 18 to receive an abortion without parental consent. This new law encourages more family communication between the girl and her parents. One of the most important influences that the girl must have during these rough times is the support of her family.

Fortunately, for the first time in twenty-five years, teenage pregnancy has dropped substantially. This is due to an increase in sex-education given to

teens. It teaches them about pregnancy prevention and the threats of AIDS and other STD's. A surprising fifty percent of all teenage girls have had sex, which is a decrease from 1990. Most use some type of birth control or condoms, which helps prevent pregnancy and diseases. Sex-Ed also teaches that there is no form of birth-control that is one hundred percent effective except for abstinence.

If you know of someone who has become unexpectedly pregnant, the most important thing that they need is support. Make sure that they receive as much medical help as possible. She will have to make many important decisions for herself and her baby. There are several places in Charlotte where she can go to for advice and information. Above all, the teenage mother needs the loyalty of a friend. Just remember she is still the same person, but now she is going to have a child.

*Information provided by  
Charlotte Pregnancy Center*



## Spotlight: Bold strokes by Terry Baucom

By Gia Clements

Mr. Terry Baucom has been artfully inspiring students at South for the last sixteen years. The end of a thirty year career is in sight for Mr. Baucom. He is considering hanging up the brushes and clay next year, but nothing has been finalized yet. When asked how long he has been here, Terry Baucom chuckled and replied: "I've been here so long they've put me on the inventory along with paper towels and art supplies."

Before coming to South, Mr. Baucom taught at Myers Park High School. Besides teaching in the classroom, he also coached football and wrestling. This comes as a surprise to many who can't imagine Mr. Baucom strolling around in sweatpants with a whistle around his neck. His love of athletics began years ago when he played football and wrestled for his high school. His ability to tackle opponents on the field undoubtedly helped him tackle numerous problems in the classroom such as: What should I draw? or Why is my clay so hard?

Mr. Baucom is an inspiration to many, and he is both supportive and honest with his students. For this reason he has become a role model for many of his former students, especially those who have become teachers. It is difficult for former students to forget someone as unique as Mr. Baucom. One of his students, in particular, thinks so highly of Mr. Baucom that when asked about him, Carmel Jarvie replied: "High school was a very diffi-



Staff Photographer

### Ideas flow from Mr. Baucom in his Ceramics classes.

cult time for me. If I had not had Terry Baucom's art class when I first came to South Meck, I doubt I would have stayed in school. He supported, nurtured, and challenged me from the first time we met. To this day, I continue to respect and admire Mr. Baucom." Carmel Jarvie is a teacher in the Charlotte area.

Teaching is not Mr. Baucom's only love in life. He is also particularly interested in biology and genetics. Terry Baucom attended Western Carolina University. His major was art, but his second major was biology. His deep interest in nature is more than a hobby. When asked about his hobby, one can realize from his reaction how fascinating and consuming this passion is to him. Mr. Baucom hybridizes day lilies, not just one or two, but thousands of these gorgeous flowers. On a small farm just outside of Charlotte, Mr. Baucom spends his weekends

and most of the summer meticulously cross-pollinating day lilies. He finds it very similar to art since it takes knowledge of color to create a flower which will sell in the market place. A knowledge of color alone does not ensure success; a deep understanding of the genetics involved in hybridization is also necessary. It takes him years to create the perfect day lily; up to five years is spent nurturing the flower before it is ready to be sold. Patience and perseverance alone can achieve perfection, which is exactly what Mr. Baucom strives for daily.

It is this type of dedication which has given South the reputation of having one of the finest art programs in the state. Students, at an art exhibition in Atlanta, Georgia, were pleased to hear that the judges were impressed that such a high level of art work was being produced in a public school. The judges'

astonishment proves that it is the teachers which create the ability for the students to succeed. When and if Mr. Terry Baucom does leave South Mecklenburg, he will leave behind an art department full of wealth and prestige. Generations of students will be able to take advantage of the name Mr. Baucom has created for South's art department. South is seen by many as having one of the best art education programs in Charlotte. Every year, South Mecklenburg art receives recognition in many exhibitions and contests. Perhaps this prestige has developed out of his "no nonsense" way of teaching. Contrary to popular belief, art is not an easy "A", especially

ways what one wants to hear. He is never indirect. Where criticism is necessary, it is given. Likewise, when praise is needed, it is also freely given. In his long career, Mr. Baucom has brought smiles to countless faces and unearthed the passion of art, which otherwise would have lain dormant in the students he has taught. Students who have been taught by Mr. Baucom come away with a feeling of satisfaction. They know that they can achieve whatever they desire and that there is no obstacle in life that a clear mind and patient hand cannot conquer. There is not enough praise that can be given to Mr. Baucom for what he has done for South in the last sixteen years. South



Mr. Baucom's hobby is cross-pollinating day lilies.

under the watchful eye of Mr. Baucom. He demands a high work ethic from his students. They may find him gruff at first, but perhaps the truth is not al-

will miss Mr. Baucom when he does leave, because it is not often that a school is lucky enough to employ a teacher as dedicated and as capable as he has been.

## Sabre Scraps

### Civitan

Civitan members participated in the voting process on November 4 by working at the Sharon Lakes Country Club polling place. The students assisted with the Kids Voting program.

### Horticulture

Horticulture program was awarded \$1,000 by the PTSA to continue working to beautify

our campus. Students recently had a Holiday Poinsettia sale and are preparing to grow flowers for the spring plant sale in April.

### Beta Club

Throughout the month of November, the Beta Club contributed 19 shoe boxes full of toys and gifts to Operation Christmas Child. Currently, the Beta Club is warming up for its December

15 and 17 caroling dates at the Sardis Nursing Home's Christmas parties.

### ROTC

The Sabre Rifles and Blue and Gold Waves placed third overall in the competition held in Conway, SC on November 5 and 6.

On November 21 and 22 in Cape Fear, NC, South's regiment placed second overall.



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## Dean's exit isn't the end of Tar Heel dominance

By Cliff Mauriello

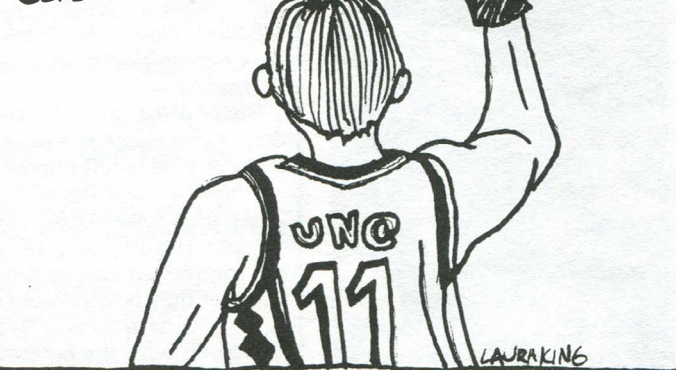
For thirty-six years Dean Smith and his North Carolina Tar Heels have been the closest to a sure thing in college basketball. No coach in the history of the sport has had a more consistent program than Smith. One of the more incredible testaments to his success is the fact that his teams have never finished lower than third in the ACC regular season standings. This is outstanding, considering the high standard of play the ACC has set for itself over the years. A mystical quality seemed to surround Smith and his "system" of integrating some of the greatest basketball talent in the country into a selfless style of play. This system (which has produced more ACC championships, more NCAA tournament wins, and more overall victories than any other) has come to be associated with Smith's own personality.

Therefore, it seemed quite reasonable to assume that the future of Carolina basketball was in extreme jeopardy when

Coach Smith announced his retirement early in October. Alumni, students, and athletes wondered what would become of the system. Who, other than the Dean himself, could run the program the way he had. For twenty-four hours the campus awaited the decision. Bill Guthridge had been appointed to come to the rescue.

Now most people had expected this purely from a loyalty standpoint. Guthridge, after all, had turned down head coaching positions from around the country to act patiently and quietly as Dean Smith's right hand man. Surely he should have been rewarded for his sacrifice for the University. Guthridge, however, is certainly not a coach one would pick from a longevity perspective. He is sixty years old and his own retirement is not far off in the future. Athletic director Dick Baddour and Chancellor Michael Hooker could certainly have gone out on a limb and recruited younger, more inventive coaches such as Herb Sendek at N.C. State or Roy Williams at Kansas. In-

The Tradition Continues.....



stead, they chose to stay with Guthridge. Why? He knows the system, and although he'll add a few wrinkles to it here and there, he knows better than to fix something that isn't broken. Guthridge is smart enough to stick with what works.

He also has it running like a well-oiled machine. Over the past few weeks, Guthridge has proved competitive and as wily a coach as any in the country. His victory at the Great Alaskan Shootout was a statement to the ACC, to the NCAA, and especially to archival and number

one-ranked Duke University that Chapel Hill will not fade quietly into the glory of the past. No, indeed. Instead, Guthridge is building for the future; one that includes celebrations and net cuttings for years to come. It is not the end of an era. It's a springboard into the new age of college basketball, and make no mistake about it. This age still belongs to Bill Guthridge and the University of North Carolina.

Former Sabres' Blade editor-in-chief Cliff Mauriello is a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill.

## Lady Sabres set to defend title

By Leah Reed

The Lady Sabres basketball team open up their 1997 season, ready to battle their way to the conference championship and the state playoffs. The Lady Sabres have seven returning players including six seniors. After being undefeated in the Southwestern 4-A conference last year, the Sabres are good contenders in the race for the championship. But they are up against some stiff competition. East Meck, whom South defeated three times last season, is the team to beat this year. When asked about the upcoming season, Coach Gaston said: "We're going to have a pretty decent year. This season our theme is going to be potential vs. performance. We have the potential, but our performance will determine how good of a season we will have."

This year's team consists of many strong players and great teamwork. Heather Sakaduski, a transfer student from Providence, has helped fill the void left by the loss of Chiquita Thomas and Jovanca McCollough as far as ball-handling. There is good chemistry between Heather and the other three starting guards, Katie Aldridge, Kim Ross, and Karen Whichard. Trisha Hardin was All-Conference as a freshman and is much improved. She and Leslie Whitten should dominate the post this season. The Lady Sabres not only have five powerful starters, but they also have a deep, experienced bench they can rely on.

## Clarke brings new style of winning to South

By Chris O'Connor

The men's basketball team has begun this year's season with a new outlook. Coach Clarke, who is new to South, has come in with new plays and expectations for the Sabres. He came to South after three years experience as the JV coach at East Mecklenburg High School. Considering that Clarke's system of coaching is new to all, progress will be slow.

With continued hard work and a positive attitude, the team hopes to make the best of this season. Their goal is to qualify for the state playoffs. Along with that, Clarke intends to finish the tournament as one of the top 5 teams in the Southwestern 4-A Conference. The players are working extremely hard in practice and believe they will be in better shape than most everyone they will play. The plans are to use fitness to neutralize the

team's lack of height. This conditioning will hopefully give the team the needed edge over the competition. Inexperience at point guard will also be an obstacle for the team. Lorenzo Southern has converted to point guard and is leading the team to the best of his ability. Clarke claimed, "I've been very

pleased with the work ethic and attitude of the guys and we are putting forth the kind of effort we need to be successful."

Some of the players to watch this year will be Matt Schafermeyer at forward, Lorenzo Southern and Travis Feaster as guards, and Jelani Patterson at center.

## Sabres' Blade Athletes of the Month



Tosha Jamison

By Jennifer Collins

Well-rounded senior Tosha Jamison is a leading member of the women's varsity basketball program. As a senior with a lot of determination, she looks to dominate this season while leading the underclassmen. Tosha is proving herself in academics and basketball. She hopes to attend Western Carolina University and earn a masters degree in special education. Basketball began for Tasha at age nine. She started by playing against her brother, Antawn, who is now a starting player for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Matt Schafermeyer

By Jennifer Collins

At a height of 6'3", senior power forward Matt Schafermeyer is a key component to the men's basketball program this year. Matt believes this physical conditioning will be the feature that sets South apart from the competition. Height will be the greatest obstacle for the Sabres. Schafermeyer is determined to play aggressively and not feel intimidated by opponents' height. Coach Clarke commented, "Throughout the early season, Matt has probably been our most consistent player. He will be a big key to our success this year."

## Next home basketball game is January 7 against West Meck

## Splish splash; swim and dive season under way

By Nicole Ewing

With the help of a much larger and stronger team, South's swim and dive team expects to dominate the competition this year. Both the men's and women's teams have grown in size from last season, especially men's, which increased from about five to fifteen swimmers this season.

South's main rivalries will again be Providence and Myers Park High School this year, and South will try to claim the top spot from these two teams. They think that they have a better chance than last year because the rezoning of the school districts moved many powerful MAC swimmers away from Providence, spreading out the competition. "Our team is a lot more experienced this year, and that should be to our advantage," said senior captain Paige Woodard.

The Dive team looks quite strong this season. Whitney Rothrock will lead the women's team, and Brett Emmerton will lead the men's team. Emmerton came to South from Providence as one of the best male divers in the state. "South is going to dominate. We may have some tough schools to go against, but all around, we should do pretty well. It should be interesting," he said.

In the end, it will be hard work that decides the conference champion. South's team practices every night at Providence High's pool. The team is optimistic that the leadership from the alumni, and the talent from the rookies will help them reach their goals. "I am really looking forward to this year," said Coach Diane Dave. "The team is a lot more diverse from last year, and I think that the variety of swimmers will put us above everyone else."

## An indoor adventure

By Elizabeth Berry

The women's indoor soccer season began on November 18 at Soccer City. South Meck is fortunate to have two teams: red and black. The red team consists of the returning varsity players and the black team is composed of newer players coming to South.

The field is in a warehouse and enclosed with a hockey type of plexi glass. The grass is really carpet. Some of the rules are different. Playing off the walls can be a big advantage when trying to score a goal or pass to a player who is open.

Indoor soccer is the best way to get ready for the regular soccer season which will start in February.

Happy Holidays  
From the staff of  
The Sabres' Blade

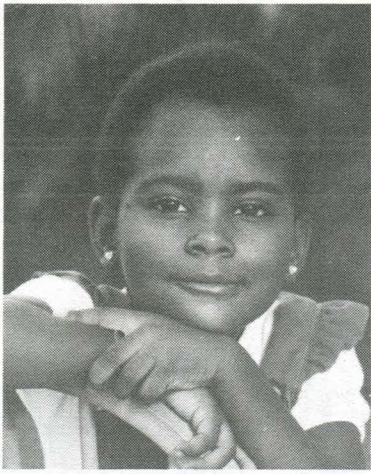


## Senior Mysteries



By Gia Clements

This bubbly brunette is very involved all over campus. She is very active serving as president of the Krefeld Exchange Club as well as vice president of the German Honor Society. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club. This senior mystery is very busy with her classes, which include English 12 AP, Computer Science AP, and Calculus AP. Unlike many seniors, our mystery Sabre loves her senior exit project topic-horror movies, and her research is a scream! This mini mystery is a terror on the road in her blue Dodge Shadow. Next year she hopes to be studying aerospace engineering at North Carolina State University. See Page 6 for the answer to this senior mystery.



By Jennifer Collins

This Jamaican senior may be recognized driving around in her silver Mitsubishi Mirage. Considering she has been dancing since the age of five, it's no surprise that she has been a member of the Sabre Letter Girl Squad ever since her freshman year. Along with being the Peaceful Sabres Vice-president, she also is an intern at Huntingtown Farms. Away from school, this senior mystery enjoys shopping and going to the movies. If you ever see her eating ice cream, it will be none other than cookies and cream. Originally from Miami, her plans are to attend the University of Miami and study psychology. If you don't know who this senior mystery is, see Page 6.

## Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

*Editors' Note: This article was originally published by The New York Sun on September 21, 1897 in reply to a letter from Virginia O'Hamilton.*

Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus? It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in friends! You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle to see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, life, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus? Thank God, he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

Frances Pharcellus Church

## Sabre Recognition

Students from German class volunteered at the Charlotte Sister City Gala held October 30 at the Merchandise Mart. The festival honored all of Charlotte's Sister Cities and served as a fundraiser for this organization. Sabres served as ticket collectors, crowd control monitors, parking lot attendants, ushers, information givers, servers, and performers. They all deserve recognition for their work.

Hillary Vaden won first chair cello in the North Carolina All-State Orchestra. She is auditioning for the National Symphony in December. Vaden also won a \$500 scholarship, first place at the Matthews Festival, and \$100 for the Art Department at South.

The following students participated in the 1997 NC Honors Chorus, the most difficult state wide audition: Lauren Konen, Shawn Millington, and Leslie Starnes. Shawn was also recognized as a three year Honors Chorus participant.

The students who participated in the 1997-1998 Mars Hill College Choral Festival were Melanie Cooper, Lisa Gerald, Lauren Nepa, and Amanda Truman.

Matt Meyer, Shawn Millington, Emily Monday, and Sarah Snyder all participated in the Furman University Choral Festival.

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Staff Photographer

This past October, South's Automotive Technology classes received a 1995 Dodge Neon donated to them by the Chrysler Corporation. Mr. Pressley, The Automotive Technology teacher, plans to use the car to teach students the technology used in today's automobiles.

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